# REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES

**July 18, 2002** 



#### EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR. AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS www.kyauditor.net

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES

July 18, 2002

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes for Daviess County Sheriff as of July 18, 2002. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

#### **Financial Condition:**

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$27,956,421 for the districts for 2001 taxes, retaining commissions of \$822,327 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$27,098,390 to the districts for 2001 Taxes. Taxes of \$2 are due to the health district from the Sheriff.

#### **Deposits:**

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

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To the People of Kentucky
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Honorable Reid Haire, Daviess County Judge/Executive
Honorable Keith Cain, Daviess County Sheriff
Members of the Daviess County Fiscal Court

#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

We have audited the Daviess County Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes as of July 18, 2002. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Daviess County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Daviess County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of July 18, 2002, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.



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In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated February 14, 2003, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr. Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed - February 14, 2003

#### DAVIESS COUNTY KEITH CAIN, SHERIFF SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES

July 18, 2002

	Special							
<u>Charges</u>	Co	unty Taxes	Tax	ting Districts	S	chool Taxes	St	ate Taxes
Real Estate Taxes	\$	3,950,875	\$	2,631,334	\$	11,260,683	\$	4,197,804
Tangible Personal Property Taxes		613,360		348,099		1,565,485		1,572,876
Intangible Personal Property Taxes								678,609
Taxes Increased Through								
Erroneous Assessments		11,184		6,537		48,865		32,815
Franchise Corporation Taxes		456,172		259,197		843,543		
Distilled Spirits Taxes		27,231		15,561		90,771		
Non-Resident Watercraft		14,244		8,108		38,973		
Enterprise Zone				15,107				15,415
Unmined Coal - 2001 Taxes		234		154		897		249
Omitted Unmined Coal - 2001 Taxes		59		39		226		63
Oil and Gas Property Taxes		4,520		2,966		17,304		4,803
Limestone, Sand, and Mineral Reserves		154		101		591		164
Bank Franchise Taxes		284,100						
Penalties		26,541		16,847		64,637		30,042
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt		(298)		(78)		(44)		(321)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	\$	5,388,376	\$	3,303,972	\$	13,931,931	\$	6,532,519
Credits								
Taxes Decreased Through								
Erroneous Assessments	\$	84,105	\$	49,639	\$	225,086	\$	57,458
Discounts		81,659		49,817		215,286		108,552
Delinquents:		<b>70.1</b> 51		21010		15.010		<b>7</b> < 400
Real Estate Taxes		53,164		34,948		156,049		56,488
Tangible Personal Property Taxes		3,265		1,866		9,378		5,096
Intangible Personal Property Taxes								2,932
Unmined Coal - 2001 Taxes		14		9		53		15
Nonresident Watercraft		164		88		442		
Uncollected Franchise Taxes	-	1,755		907		2,142		
Total Credits	\$	224,126	\$	137,274	\$	608,436	\$	230,541
Taxes Collected	\$	5,164,250	\$	3,166,698	\$	13,323,495	\$	6,301,978
Less: Commissions *		219,768		134,585		199,852		268,122
Taxes Due	\$	4,944,482	\$	3,032,113	\$	13,123,643	\$	6,033,856
Taxes Paid	Ψ	4,940,344	Ψ	3,028,938	Ψ	13,107,256	Ψ	6,021,852
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)		4,138		3,173		16,387		12,004
retuines (Current and 11101-11611)		7,130		3,173		10,507		12,007
Due District as of Completion				**				
of Fieldwork	\$	0	\$	2	\$	0	\$	0

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

DAVIESS COUNTY KEITH CAIN, SHERIFF SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2001 TAXES July 18, 2002 (Continued)

\* Commissions:

10% on \$ 10,000 4.25% on \$ 14,622,924 1.5% on \$ 13,323,495

\*\* Special Taxing District:

Health District \$ 2

## DAVIESS COUNTY NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 18, 2002

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

#### B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

#### C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

#### Note 2. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of July 18, 2002 the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name.

DAVIESS COUNTY NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Continued) July 18, 2002

#### Note 3. Tax Collection Period

#### A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2001. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2002. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was October 26, 2001 through May 7, 2002.

#### B. Unmined Coal Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2001. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was December 4, 2001 through May 7, 2002.

#### Note 4. Interest Income

The Daviess County Sheriff earned \$41,160 as interest income on 2001 taxes. The Sheriff distributed the appropriate amount to the school district as required by statute, and the remainder will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

#### Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Daviess County Sheriff collected \$97,255 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

#### Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Daviess County Sheriff collected \$10,850 of advertising costs and \$10,680 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

#### Note 7. Unrefundable Duplicate Payments And Unexplained Receipts Should Be Escrowed

The Sheriff should deposit any unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts in an interest-bearing account. According to KRS 393.110, the Sheriff should properly report annually to the Treasury Department any unclaimed moneys. After seven years, if the funds have not been claimed, the funds should be submitted to the Kentucky State Treasurer. For the 2001 taxes, the Sheriff had \$3,155 in unrefundable duplicate payments and unexplained receipts. Therefore, the Sheriff should send a written report to the Treasury Department.

# REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



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Report On Compliance And On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Daviess County Sheriff's Settlement - 2001 Taxes as of July 18, 2002, and have issued our report thereon dated February 14, 2003. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Daviess County Sheriff's Settlement -2001 Taxes as of July 18, 2002 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Daviess County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.



Report On Compliance And On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards (Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr. Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed - February 14, 2003